



# ❖ The Minuteman ❖

Volume 27 Issue 2

November 1997



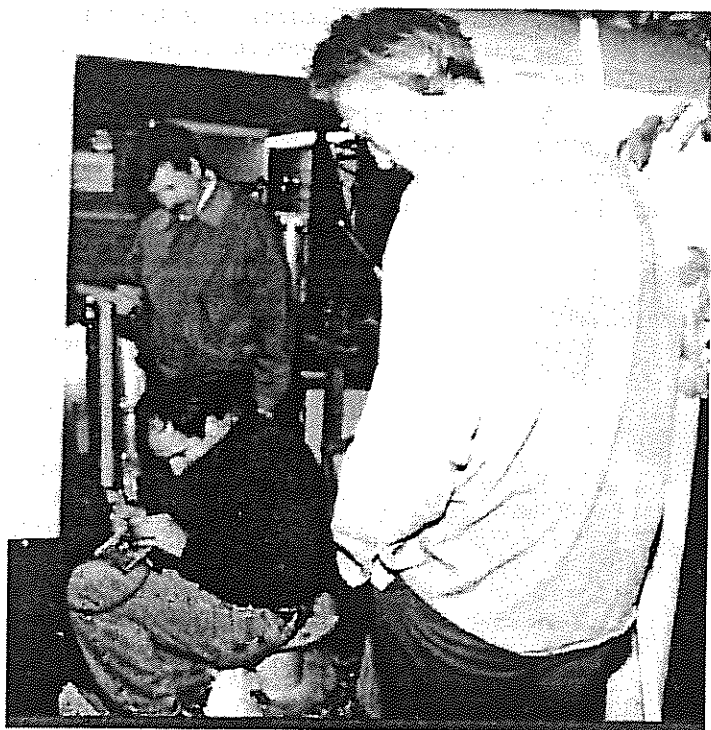
## President's Corner

Andy Morrison, N1BHI

Read the article about our guys helping out the BU ham club. I think there are a couple of messages there....first, there may be some hope yet. If college students are interested in the hobby, and can be brought into the fold through college club activities, then maybe we *do* have a source of new blood. Second, it takes interest and involvement by active hams to kindle and nurture student interest. Bill, N1QPR, Dave, KT1X, and Ed, N1NOM, showed that kind of involvement over the weekend of November 8. They all went into Boston and helped the BU club...well, read the story. The point is that this is what it takes to keep ham radio on the air, and we all owe these guys a vote of thanks for their willingness to put the time and effort into it.

Below is a picture of Bryan, W1BRI, and Clark, N1NVK, (Sorry, I don't know who the gent with his back to the camera is) up at the Slygo Hill shelter. Bryan is working on 223.94...and recently, he did a lot of cleanup work up there. Sometime in the next couple of weeks, Bryan will be organizing a work party to do some work on the shelter structure...if you hear about it, offer to help if you can.

I know I sound like a broken record when I mention Bryan, Chris, Clark and the others who work on our systems, but I can't help it. They deserve a lot of recognition for what they do for the MMRA.



## Boston University Club Gets Help

By Bill Northup, N1QPR

There is some hope for the hobby....the BU ham radio club has been off the air for 15 years. This year ham faculty members have reactivated the club, and there is some real interest. Most of the members are studying for their license exams, and will soon be joining the ranks of active hams.

Mark Horenstein, WA1GIO, knows that MMRA members are actively involved in fox hunting, and expressed interest in having our group give this new club a presentation on FOX hunting. We have done this for a couple of other ham clubs already, and we were pleased to have the opportunity to help out a new college club.

So on Sunday November 8th I, Dave, KT1X, Eddie, N1NOM, and Roger, N1NUS, went into BU. Our goal was to introduce them to Radio Direction Finding techniques and to suggest projects that they could do to improve techniques. There were 8 people there to listen to the talk (10 if you want to count Marks young daughters).

Dave and I gave a talk that started with an introduction to what radio direction finding (RDF or FOX hunting) was and why anyone would want to do it — its emergency communications support value *and* because it's *fun*. Next we talked about the many techniques, covering power circles, transmitter signature analysis, simple direction techniques using yagis and quads, and finally how dopplers work and how we use them.

We talked about all of the special tools that we in the

(Continued on page 2)

## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOV 19, 1997 - 1930 HRS

CAMPION CENTER, WESTON MA

PROGRAM:

### ASTRONOMY FOR HAMS

HT Clinic

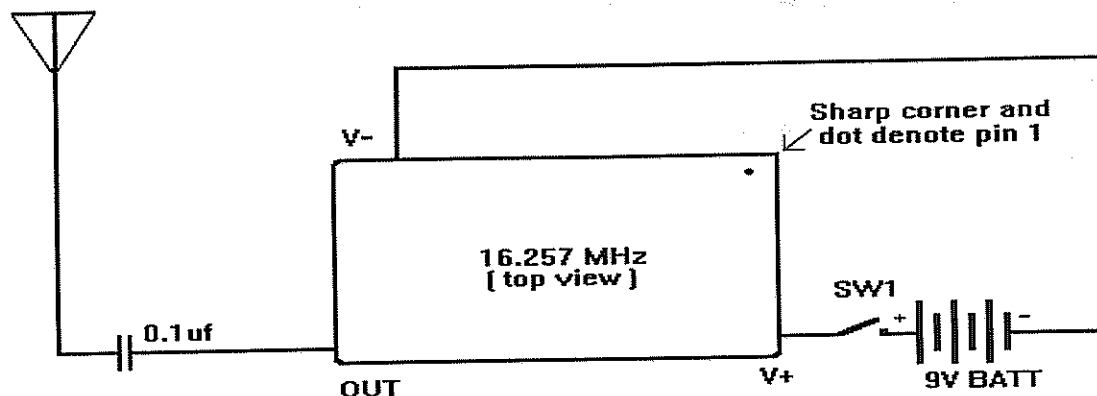
Budget

Raffle

Other Stuff

## 2 Meter RF Test Generator

Diagram



## ERRATA

My apologies to Clark, N1NVK...the diagram in the last issue was from an article he did a year or so ago. I just double clicked in the wrong place. The picture above goes with the article on the RF tester that he wrote for the last issue of the **Minuteman**. So just remember that to err is human...to really screw up takes a computer.

(Continued from page 1) BU Club Meeting....

MMRA are using: GPS (and Street Atlas USA), APRS, computers for filtering data coming from the dopplers. We asked the students if they wanted to try and write some good filtering software. We showed them the FOX box and the MOUSE box and talked about how they work and how they were built.

We ended the day by having a mini-mini-hunt. It was raining so hard that we decided that we had to have the hunt inside the building. While I was wrapping up the formal talk Dave and Eddie went and hid the box. Since most of the students are not licensed as yet, they used handheld scanners and HT's that we brought along.

The building has a large circular entryway that has two


levels. The box was hidden in a trash can on the upper level. I think the hunt worked out better because of the small area to cover. Of course a fox transmitter inside a building makes for a real challenge, because of the reflections off all the surfaces there. Everyone was able to find the box on his own and went away with the thrill of victory.

Since we whetted their appetites, the BU club members seem interested, so we plan to have a few hunts in the BU area in the near future. Hopefully they will be able to join in and through that become even more enthused about ham radio.



Can you identify this man? He is often seen in the vicinity of fellow hams, HF rigs, CW keys, antenna towers, or other radio facilities.

That he is holding a box of donuts may or may not be significant; but the lack of flower on his clothes suggests that while he didn't make the donuts, he does like to eat them.



### MMRA VE Sessions

2nd Saturday of Each Month  
Marlboro Public Library, 9AM  
Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJZ  
617-891-9079 Evenings 6 to 10 PM,  
Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.  
Accredited - ARRL VE Program

### Items of Interest From the ARRL Letter

#### Scanner Buffs - Rejoice!

Hams, scanner enthusiasts and others are breathing a tentative sigh of relief this week. Their efforts apparently have paid off to convince House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-La) that HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1997, was flawed legislation. Tauzin's so-called "scanner bill" has been rewritten to reflect the concerns of hams, volunteer firefighters, scanner enthusiasts and others.

Many meetings, phone calls and letters with Tauzin's staff followed the introduction of the original bill. At Tauzin's request, the League submitted recommendations to narrow its scope. From Washington, ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, reports that most of those recommendations found their way into a committee markup of the bill, released Wednesday, October 29. While the original version of HR 2369 covered the entire Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS), the current version restricts its scope to just cellular telephone and the Personal Communications Service (PCS). Mansfield tempered his optimism with caution. "It is still too early to say whether the bill in its modified form, or in any other form, will ever become law," he said.

In introducing the substitute bill, Tauzin praised hams for their constructive cooperation. "The bill was never intended to prohibit the scanning of public safety frequencies or other noncommercial frequencies in which users have no expectation of privacy," he said. It was designed solely "to protect users of wireless services that pay for such services." Mansfield said the League worked with a coalition of other organizations to make sure members' voices were heard on The Hill. Changes also were recommended by scanner interests including Uniden and Tandy.

Unless Congress cuts corners, the bill still has a long way to go. It must be passed by the full Commerce Committee before it goes to the floor of the House. "The ARRL will continue to work with committee staff to fine tune one of the bill's provisions that could have unintended consequences with regard to unrelated modification of equipment," Mansfield said.

In its original form, the bill had generated a good deal of controversy that boiled over into emotional letters and e-mail messages to Members of Congress. Some critics interpreted the bill as outlawing equipment that receives law enforcement, fire, EMS and other nonbroadcast services, and felt it could even prohibit *listening* to these transmissions. The ARRL believed it could also impede the ability of manufacturers to include expanded VHF and UHF receiving capability, something most hand-held and mobile transceivers now offer.

While the League did not object to the original bill's efforts to curb cellular and PCS eavesdropping--something that's already illegal--its primary objection was that it could adversely affect the efforts of ham radio emergency volunteers, volunteer fire departments and other agencies that monitor public service

frequencies using scanners. Among other things, the League pointed out to House members this month that the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) of 1986, makes it illegal to intercept cellular, PCS, and other telephone-type communication.

One provision of the latest version calls on the FCC to consider defining the expression "capable of readily being altered" to require scanning receivers to be made in a way that effectively precludes alteration as necessary to prevent illegal use. Another calls on the FCC to consider requiring warning labels for scanning receivers that alert users to the prohibitions in federal law.

Mansfield praised Tauzin and his staff for paying attention to Amateur Radio concerns on the proposed legislation. "On the whole, it looks like Congress has listened," he said.

#### Gate 4 Opens December 2

Christmas will arrive a bit early for General, Technician Plus, Technician and Novice Class hams. The FCC has announced that vanity call sign program Gate 4--the last vanity gate--will open December 2, 1997, for General, Tech Plus, Technician and Novice class hams to request a vanity call sign on or after that date. The potential number of applicants from these four licensee groups is huge--well over a half million hams!

Applicants may use either the electronic Forms 610V and 159 on the Web or hard-copy Form 610V and 159 -- but not both. Both versions -- plus fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions -- are available at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur>

The application fee is \$50, payable by check (to "FCC"), bank draft, money order or credit card. Do *not* send cash. The FCC gives processing priority to electronically filed Forms 610V for which the filing fee and Form 159 have been received. The FCC now requires *all* vanity filers to include a Form 159, which must be mailed to the FCC with your fee.

It's up to applicants to make sure that their applications do not arrive before December 2, 1997. The FCC will return all applications that arrive early. All other vanity call sign gates will remain open, and Amateur Extra and Advanced class operators continue to be eligible to file for vanity call signs under those filing gates.

Any call sign requested must be appropriate for the class of license you hold. This means that Technician, Tech Plus, and General class licensees may ask for a Group C (13) or D (23) call sign. Novice class licensees may only request Group D call signs.

Electronic filers must mail the Form 159 Fee Remittance Advice to FCC, Amateur Vanity, PO Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994. The Form 159 and the fee must be received within 10 days of electronically filing your Form 610V or your application will be dismissed.

Those filing on document Forms 610V and 159 must mail the application package containing a completed Form 610V

## Items of Interest....From the ARRL Letter

(Continued from page 3)

with a copy of your license attached, Form 159 and the proper fee in a sealed envelope to FCC, Amateur Vanity, PO Box 358924, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924.

Application packages via courier or delivered by hand must be prepared in the same way, sealed in a second, outer envelope, and addressed to Federal Communications Commission, c/o Mellon Bank, 525 William Penn Way, 27th Floor, Room 153-2713, Pittsburgh, PA 15259, ATTN: Wholesale Lockbox Shift Supervisor. This address should only be used for applications delivered by hand or courier.

For general information, call the FCC's toll-free National Call Center, 888-225-5322 (CALLFCC).

### WRC-97 Update - Leo's Not Faring Well

WRC-97 is nearing its halfway point with some issues moving toward settlement and others still very contentious. Here's a look at the issues important to Amateur Radio:

Little LEO (non-voice, non-geostationary mobile satellite) interests have had a difficult time at WRC-97. While nothing is firm, the conference appears to be moving toward agreement that the segments 146 to 148, 170 to 230, and 406.1 to 430 MHz are *not* open for consideration for Little LEO allocations at this time. There has been little support outside Region 2 for any new Little LEO allocations. Most of the Little LEOs' interest has focused on 401 to 406 and 450 to 470 MHz, with some possibility of future studies of possible compatibility with broadcasting at 470 to 862 MHz.

Thursday night, a compromise proposal from The Netherlands for a secondary allocation at 432 to 438 MHz for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service failed to gain sufficient support for adoption. Instead, it appears that a resolution will be proposed calling on the ITU-R to conduct urgent studies of the best band for such a satellite to operate in. For the satellite to perform its intended function of studying the rain forest, the frequency chosen must be in the general vicinity of 400 to 500 MHz. This makes the selection of an operating frequency that will not interfere with other services very difficult, because this spectrum is heavily used by a variety of services all over the world.

Earlier, it was agreed that the Earth Exploration Satellite Service would be upgraded at 1215 to 1300 MHz from a secondary to a primary allocation. At this order of frequency, the service has less potential for interference to the Amateur Service, and its presence reduces the possibility that other, less-compatible services might later be introduced into this band.

Wind profiler radar issues appear to be close to resolution, with amateur satellite segments protected from being mentioned as appropriate for wind profiler operations. What has been agreed at working group level is that--except for a worldwide primary allocation at 1270 to 1295 MHz--the only specific allocations for wind profiler radars are in Region 1, and those

are on a secondary basis. For Region 2 amateurs the significant points are that administrations are urged to implement wind profilers in radiolocation bands at 440 to 450 MHz, 904 to 928 in Region 2 only (protecting the lower, weak-signal segment), 1270 to 1295 MHz (protecting amateur satellite and weak-signal), and 1300 to 1375 MHz. The bands 420 to 435 MHz or 438 to 440 MHz "could be considered for use . . . in case compatibility between wind profiler radars and other radio applications operating in the band 440-450 MHz or 470-494 MHz (only in some Region 1 countries) cannot be achieved." The amateur-satellite segment is protected.

Another amateur delegate on a national delegation has arrived. Oyekunle B. Ajayi, 5N0OBA, of the Nigerian Amateur Radio Society is on the Nigerian delegation and is taking an active part in the conference. The IARU reception was held Thursday night and was quite successful, attracting among others ITU Secretary-General Tarjanne.

4U1ITU has been active using the special call sign 4U1WRC. Even 10 meters has been open to the US. Unfortunately, with meetings lasting well into the night, the many delegates who hold amateur licenses have little time to operate.

### Sputnik Lives

Reports from several places indicate the working model Sputnik PS2 satellite launched Monday, November 3, from the Russian *Mir* space station is beeping away on 145.82 MHz. The one-third scale Sputnik model was built by students in Russia and France to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the original Sputnik 1 satellite. Sputnik 1, launched by the Soviet Union in 1957, was the first artificial Earth satellite. The original Sputnik 1 transmitted a beacon on approximately 20 MHz.

The Sputnik model was launched by hand from *Mir* during a space walk by Cosmonauts Pavel Vinogradov and Anatoly Solovyev, who turned on the transmitter and checked out

(Continued on page 6)

**Give the MMRA World Wide Web Home Page a try.... let us know what you think.... any ideas are welcome. We are looking into things like an MMRA list server. We now have our own domain name - mmra.org. The Web Page keeps getting better.....**

**WWW Address:**

**<http://www.mmra.org/~mmra/mmrainfo.html>**

## MMRA Information - Repeaters, Officers and Board Members

### MMRA Repeaters:

Marlboro	146.61	N1BHI/R	FTL P	
Marlboro	449.925	N1HBR/R	FTL P PL	- 88.5 in and out
Quincy	146.67	K1ML/R	FTL P	
Quincy	224.40	N1KUG/R	FTL L PL	- 103.5 in, none out
Weston	146.82	K1AL/R	FTL P PL	- 146.2 out, none in
Weston	224.70	N1HBR/R	FTL L	
Hopkinton	223.94	N1BHI/R	FTL L PL	- 103.5 in and out
Stoneham	146.715	N1NVL/R	FTL P PL	- 146.2 out, none in.
Stoneham	446.725	N1NVK/R	FTL L PL	- 88.5 in, none out
Taunton	449.575	N1NVL/R	FTL L PL	- 88.5 in, none out
Marlboro	53.81	W1BRI/R	FTL L PL	- 71.9 in, none out

[FTL = Full Time Linked PTL = Part Time Linked]

[L = Patch available via link] P = Local Autopatch]

### MMRA Officers:

President:	Andy Morrison, N1BHI	To Contact Officers
Vice President:	Clark Conti, N1NVK	or Board Members
Secretary:	David Croll, KT1X	
	Lynne Ausman, K1NLD	Call MMRA Voice
Treasurer:	Ian MacLennan, AF1R	Mail Line:
Clerk:	Ed Mulhern, N1NOM	
Directors:	Tom Qualtieri, WB1GMA	508 - 489 - 2282
	Al Kunian, K1AL	Toll Free from
	Chris Conti, N1NVL	508 and 617 Areas
	Bob Feltmate, W1ZJE	
Newsletter Editor:	Andy Morrison, N1BHI	MMRA E-Mail
		mmra@mmra.org

### Important MMRA Club Information:

Membership Meetings: 3rd Wed of Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May at Campion Center, Weston at 7:30 PM

Meeting Dates for 1997-98 Season: September 17, November 19, January 21, March 18, & May 20.

Board Meetings: 3rd Wed of Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr. Meetings are open and members are welcome.

If a visiting member wants to be on the agenda, please contact Andy Morrison beforehand.

MMRA Voice Mailbox (508) 489-2282. -- This is a local call from any 508 exchange phone, and is a free call from both 617 and 508 areas.

Newsletter Information September issue November issue January Issue March Issue May issue

Mailing Date Sept 11, 1997 Nov 13, 1997 Jan 8, 1998 Mar 12, 1998 May 14, 1998

Submission Deadline Sept 1, 1997 Oct 26, 1997 Dec 28, 1997 Feb 22, 1998 Apr 26, 1998

The MMRA is dedicated to Amateur Radio and the public service. The MMRA is a registered non-profit Massachusetts corporation. Membership is open to all amateurs. Annual dues are \$25.00 individual, \$35.00 family.

## Minuteman Articles

### — Solicitation

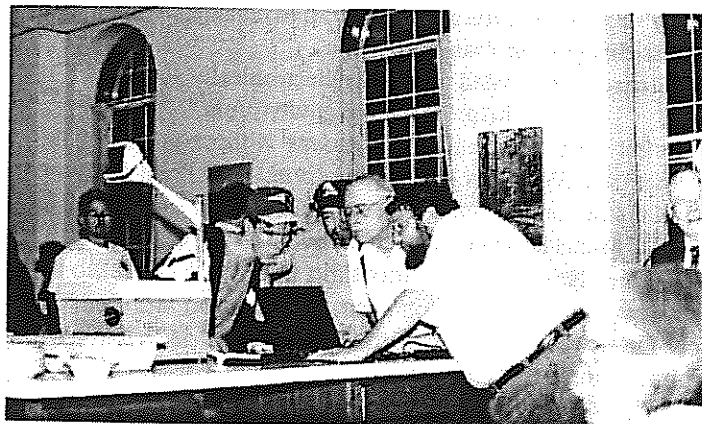
If you have ever built anything, fixed something, or have an experience that you want to share, then you should submit an article to the MMRA Minuteman. Contact Andy Morrison, N1BHI, if you want to talk about it. We can scan artwork and schematics to make an article more interesting and useful. Give it a try!



If you do not attend our meetings, you are missing some fun. The last meeting was about GPS; the program was given by Bill Northup (N1QPR) and Dave Kroll (KT1X), and a lot of input probably came from Clark Conti (N1NVK). As you can see from the picture above, showing Bill and Dave in the foreground, they look like they were having a good time, as were the

meeting attendees.

Below, Dave shows N1RVP how GPS interfaces to a computerized mapping program. The MMRA is very lucky to have a lot of people with technical expertise both related and unrelated to ham radio, so we can put on interesting programs all by ourselves, when a guest speaker is not available. The bottom line





## Items of Interest.....

(Continued from page 4)

reception aboard *Mir* before launch with help from US astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF. The beacon is audible in either FM or SSB mode. The beacon transmitter runs approximately 250 mW. The 500 mm antennas are circularly polarized.

### Finally...FCC CyberFiling

As a first step in implementing its new Universal Licensing System (ULS), the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is attempting to "populate" the ULS by getting licensees to register. Ultimately, the ULS will give hams and other licensees on-line access to make license updates and renewals, eliminating the need for hardcopy forms like the venerable Form 610. An FCC Public Notice this week said the ULS is aimed at combining the 11 different licensing systems the Bureau now uses--including Amateur Radio--into a single system.

ULS registration requires supplying a Taxpayer Identification Number (for individuals, this is typically your Social Security Number) and "associated call signs." These could include your individual call sign plus any club station call signs for which you are the trustee.

The Public Notice said that in conjunction with the ULS, the FCC "must collect TIN information to correlate its licensees with any outstanding Federal debt that they might have incurred in other dealings with the Federal Government." All vanity call sign applicants must now supply a TIN as part of Form 159.

On-line registration via the Internet is available. In addition to providing basic name and address information, registration requires you to establish a password that you must use along with your TIN to re-enter the system to make future changes. The ULS also lets you check the status of a pending application. A spokesperson in the FCC's Technical Support Group said the FCC will verify all data supplied at the time of registration to ensure that it is valid before the data are entered into the FCC licensee database.

Using the TIN and the associated call sign(s), the ULS assigns a unique sequential number to each licensee. The WTB says that once it has registration information and has implemented the ULS, it will streamline and simplify the FCC's ability to handle future administrative changes (name and address changes, for example).

Licensees are invited to register electronically at

<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>

Select ULS Registration. Licensees without access to the Internet may file a TIN registration form, FCC Form 60, from the FCC's fax-on-demand service at 202-418-0177 or by calling the FCC Forms Distribution Center, 800-418-3676. --FCC

**Editors Note:** Isn't it interesting that the FCC is about 10 years behind everyone else...Makes you wonder just how far behind the rest of the government is. I think we probably know the answer.....

### RF Safety Rules for Repeaters

The FCC has released an erratum to its RF safety rules that sets 500 W ERP (effective radiated power) as the limit for most amateur repeaters before a routine RF safety evaluation would be required. This applies to repeater systems on all bands.

A routine RF safety evaluation would be required for all repeater systems with more than 500 W ERP and having either (1) a building-mounted antenna or (2) a non-building-mounted antenna with a height of less than 10 meters (approximately 33 feet) above ground level to lowest point of the antenna.

It's fairly simple to calculate ERP. Take the PEP input to the antenna and multiply it by the numerical equivalent of the antenna gain in dBd (dB relative to a halfwave dipole in free space). Gain relative to an isotropic radiator (a point source), dBi, can be converted to dBd by subtracting 2.15 dB from the dBi number. For example, say your repeater puts out 100 W and has 3 dB of feedline loss. Calculate:  $100 \times 0.5 = 50$  W to the antenna. The antenna has 8.8 dBd of gain, or 9.44 as a decimal. So the ERP is  $50 \times 9.44 = 472$  W.

For details, see "Second Erratum" (October 22, 1997) at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et93-62/>.

### ARRL to Continue Push for Federal Preemption

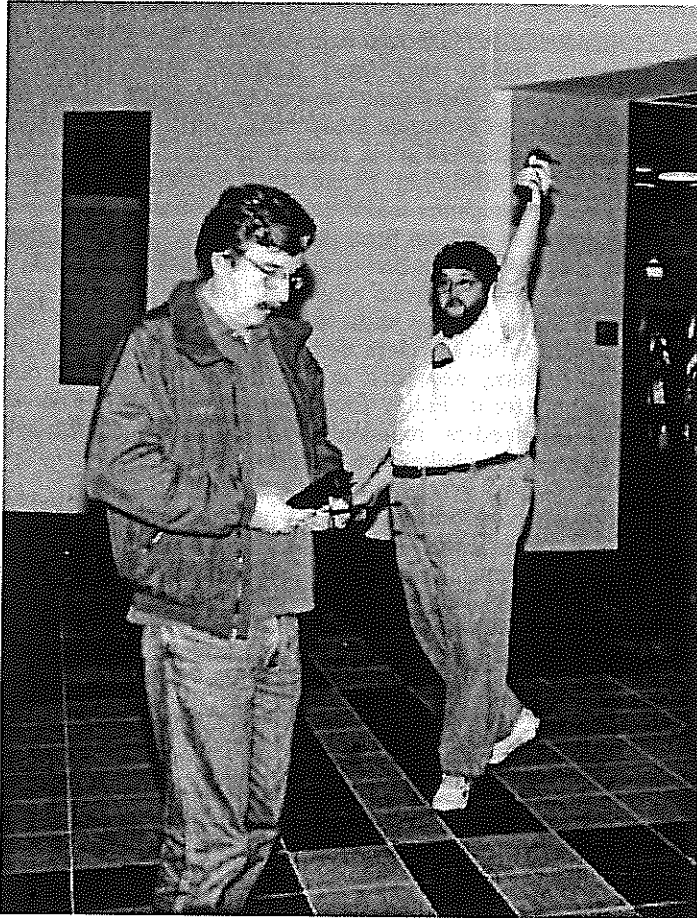
The ARRL Executive Committee has voted to have the League continue to urge adoption of the antenna regulatory preemption policies contained in its petition, RM-8763. The action came on a motion from ARRL Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, as the Executive Committee met October 11 in Philadelphia.

The League's petition, filed in February 1996, seeks enhancement of the PRB-1 limited federal preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. However, the FCC appears to have made no progress with regard to the petition, which asked the FCC to declare that localities must find the least restrictive means to deal with ham radio. Among other things, the petition called on the Commission to amend Section 97.15(e) of the rules to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable," unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions were necessary for health, safety or aesthetic reasons.

It was also announced at the Executive Committee meeting that the League will submit comments in Mass Media Bureau Docket 97-182 supporting a comprehensive antenna facilities siting policy, including amateur antenna structures.

The ARRL also continues to pursue FCC preemption of local and state attempts to regulate in the area of RF radiation safety.

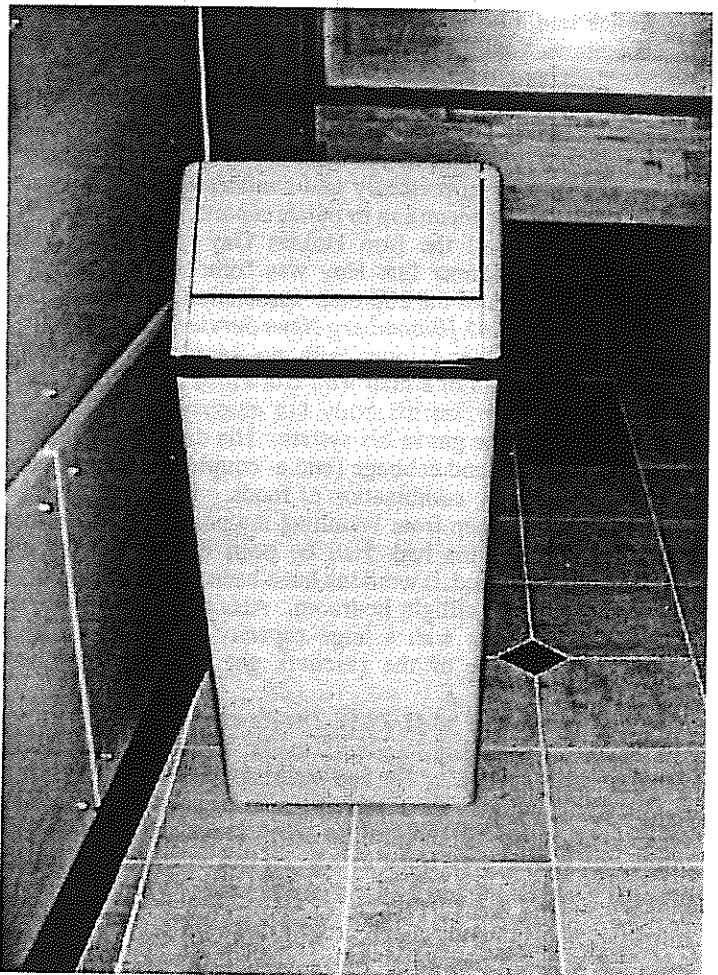
The Committee also was told that numerous comments, most of them supportive, were filed on the ARRL's petition (RM-9150) seeking to improve the FCC's handling of private-sector complaints of serious amateur rules violations. The League has filed reply comments in the matter.



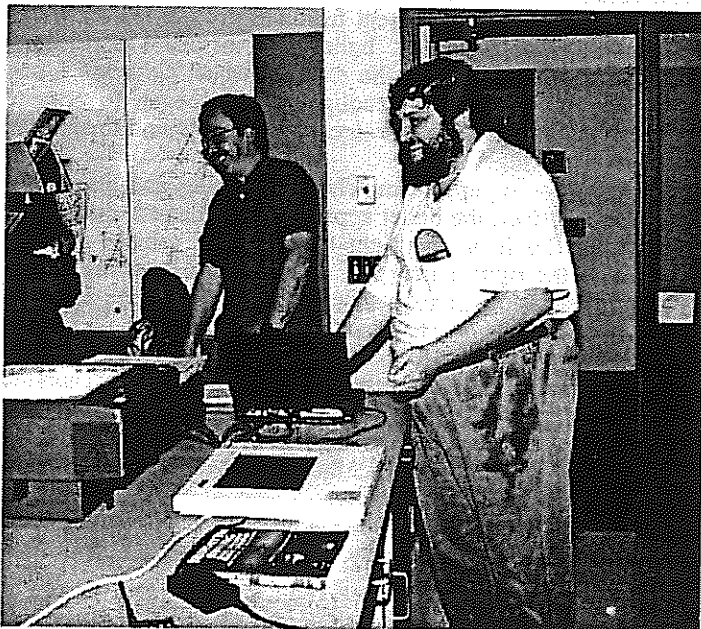
Below: The BU group...we don't have their names; they were enthusiastic and attentive. The session caught their interest, and according to Dave, it looks like their efforts have helped crank up the interest level in the reborn BU ham club. Most of these folks are studying for their license tests; maybe they will take advantage of the MMRA exam schedule. N1NOM Photo



Below: Many a Fox Hunter would have liked to put the FoxBox in one of these after a frustrating day of hunting it. This was the hide chosen by Dave and Bill, and it worked very well. Everyone found it...lucky it wasn't a metal trashcan. N1NOM Photo



Above: Dave and Bill look like they are dancing...actually, they are DFing...even though they hid the Fox transmitter. According to Dave, the multipath was a challenge. Below: Dave and Bill addressing the group at BU. The session was held in a classroom, arranged by Mark, WA1GIO. N1NOM Photo



## Darwin Awards.....Dave Kroll, KT1X

It is once again time to vote for the Darwin Award nominees for 1997. As you know these nominees will not be contributing to the gene pool (thankfully). You may recall last year's Darwin Award winner: The man who found out moments before making a 300 MPH dent in an Arizona cliff that the JATO (jet assist take off) rocket he'd strapped to his car could not be turned off once it was turned on....

The 1997 nominees are:

### NOMINEE #1 [San Jose Mercury News]

An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

### NOMINEE #2 [Kalamazoo Gazette, 4-1-95]

James Burns, 34, of Alamo, Mich., was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police described as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

### NOMINEE #3 [Hickory Daily Record 12/21/92]

Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, N.C., when, awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson .38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

### NOMINEE #4 [UPI, Toronto]

Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously had conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawyers, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

### NOMINEE #5 [Bloomburg News Service, 25 March]

A terrible diet and room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. There was no mark on his body but autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened, it wouldn't have been fatal. But the man shut up in his near airtight bedroom. According to the article, "He was a big man with a huge capacity for creating "this deadly gas." Three of the rescuers got sick and one was hospitalized.

### NOMINEE #6 [1/29/96 The News of the weird.]

Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously in 1989. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. In March 1989, sitting on a metal toilet in his cell and attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

### NOMINEE #7 [The Indianapolis Star, Dec. 4, 1996].

Cigarette lighter may have triggered fatal explosion Dunkirk, Indiana. A Jay County man using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzle loader was killed Monday night when the gun discharged in his face, sheriff's investigators said. David Pryor, 19, died in his parents' rural Dunkirk home about 11:30 p.m. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a .54-caliber muzzleloader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gunpowder ignited.

### NOMINEE #8 [AP, St. Louis]

Robert Puelo, 32, was apparently being disorderly in a St. Louis market. When the clerk threatened to call police, Puelo grabbed a hot dog, shoved it in his mouth, and walked out without paying for it. Police found him unconscious in front of the store: paramedics removed the six-inch wiener from his throat, where it had choked him to death.

### NOMINEE #9 [Unknown]

To poacher Marino Malerba, who shot a stag standing above him on an overhanging rock and was killed instantly when it fell on him.

### NOMINEE #10 [Associated Press, Kincaid, W. VA]

Blasting Cap Explodes in Man's Mouth at Party. A man at a party popped a blasting cap into his mouth and bit down, triggering an explosion that blew off his lips, teeth and tongue, state police said Wednesday. Jerry Stromyer, 24, of Kincaid, bit the blasting cap as a prank during a party late Tuesday night, said Cpl. M.D. Payne. "Another man had it in an aquarium, hooked to a battery, and was trying to explode it," Payne said. "It wouldn't go off and this guy said, 'I'll show you how to set it off.'"

### FINALLY, NOMINEE #11 [Arkansas Democrat Gazette],

July 25, 1996: Two local men were seriously injured when their pick-up truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday morning. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday. Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock are listed in serious condition at Baptist Medical Center.

The accident occurred as the two men were returning to Des Arc after a frog gigging trip. On an overcast Sunday night, Poole's pick-up truck headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 caliber bullet from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet, the headlights again began to operate properly and the two men proceeded on east-bound toward the White River bridge.

After traveling approximately twenty miles and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged and struck Poole in the right testicle. The vehicle swerved sharply to the right exiting the pavement and striking a tree. Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident, but will require surgery to repair the other wound.

Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his \_\_\_\_\_ off or we might both be dead" stated Wallis. "I've been a trooper for ten years in this part of the world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened", said Snyder.

Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia, Poole's wife asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck.